

of the emperor and not of the subjects, they are a pack of geese ? What if emperors and kings too were found useless ? Dwells it not in the memory of man that even kings and emperors have been overthrown by their subjects ? . . . Don't be fooled with this bugbear of tradition ; let's have no more tradition—we want justice. A thousand years of wrong do not make one hour of justice." Traditional authority is incompatible with the common welfare. Rulers must be elected by the people for a definite period only, as Scripture and history both teach. " From the first emperor Julius to Charles the Great there were seventy-six Roman emperors, of whom thirty-four were horribly put to death, all on account of their own tyranny; some strangled, some beheaded, some burnt. . . . And all these great lords boast nowadays of inheriting their ancient exalted titles from Rome. Yes, they boast of an ancient pagan inheritance, and do not consider that we all come down from God, and not one of us is older by one minute, even in his descent, than another, be he king or herdsman. . . . When the chosen people had a democratic government, then God verily dwelt among them ; they were wisely ruled and lived righteously. But when heathen greed devoured them, and drove them to set up a mighty king over them . . . God was sorely displeased with them, and foretold to them great misery and lamentation, with slavery and other punishments, which would come upon them from the violence of hereditary rulers."

All is not passionate denunciation, however, in this wild outburst. Let the peasants maintain strict discipline and choose good leaders. Let them abstain from plunder; let them remember the Swiss, and take courage, and rest not till mayhap the old prophecy be fulfilled that a cow shall stand on the Schwanenberg in the Franconian land, and shall look and low till it is heard in the middle of Switzerland. Let them eschew reconciliation. It will only be a hollow truce. " The lords and rulers do not want to be conciliated, they want to be tyrants, yea, gods." And let them remember what will come of weak compliance, fair-worded negotiations. "Off with the traitor to the nearest tower" will be the dictum. "You will be scourged with rods, baked in the oven. Your fingers will be chopped off,